

December 11, 2003

VIA EMAIL ONLY

**RE: I/M/O the Petition of Elizabethtown Water Company for an Increase
in Rates for Water Service and Other Tariff Modifications
BPU Docket No. WR03070510
OAL Docket No. PUCRL 07281-2003N**

TO: SERVICE LIST MEMBERS

Enclosed please find the electronic copies of the direct testimonies of the Division of the Ratepayer Advocate's witnesses, Robert J. Henkes, James A. Rothschild, Barbara R. Alexander, Howard J. Woods, and Brian Kalcic, in connection with the above referenced matter.

Should you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Very truly yours,
SEEMA M. SINGH, ESQ.
RATEPAYER ADVOCATE

By: _____
Robert J. Brabston, Esq.
Deputy Ratepayer Advocate

RJB/slc

**BEFORE THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**

In the Matter of:

**THE PETITION OF ELIZABETHTOWN WATER
COMPANY FOR AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR
WATER SERVICE**

**BPU Docket No.
WR03070510**

**OAL Docket No.
PUCRL 07281-2003N**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
AND EXHIBITS
OF
HOWARD J. WOODS, JR., P.E.**

**On Behalf of the New Jersey
Division of the Ratepayer Advocate**

December 1, 2003

**Elizabethtown Water Company, Inc.
BPU Docket No. WR03070510
Direct Testimony of Howard J. Woods, Jr., P.E.**

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I. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

A. My name is Howard J. Woods, Jr. and my address is 138 Liberty Drive, Newtown, Pennsylvania 18940-1111.

Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED?

A. I am an independent consultant and the Division of the Ratepayer Advocate has engaged me in this matter.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.

A. I hold a Bachelors of Civil Engineering Degree from Villanova University (1977) and a Master of Civil Engineering Degree with a concentration in water resources engineering also from Villanova University (1985). I am a registered professional engineer in New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Mexico. I am an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Ground Water Association, the American Water Works Association, the Water Environment Federation and the International Water Association.

Q. HAVE YOU PROVIDED TESTIMONY IN MATTERS ASSOCIATED WITH WATER AND SEWER SERVICE AND RATES ON PRIOR OCCASIONS?

1 A. Yes. I have testified in numerous rate setting proceedings and quality of service
2 evaluations in matters before the Public Utility Commissions in New Jersey, New
3 York, Connecticut and Kentucky. In addition, I have provided expert opinions in
4 generic hearings related to water resource planning and drought management in
5 New Jersey and Delaware. These hearings were sponsored by the respective
6 utility commissions in these jurisdictions.

7
8 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.**

9 A. From October 1977 through October 1981, I worked with the U.S. Environmental
10 Protection Agency's Region III Water Supply Branch. In this position I developed
11 system surveillance programs, evaluated the sanitary integrity of existing water
12 supply facilities, provided technical assistance to water suppliers and engineers in
13 regard to water treatment and the construction, operation and maintenance of water
14 supply facilities. I recommended treatment techniques and the addition of sanitary
15 facilities to municipal and investor owned utilities, coordinated emergency
16 responses to cases of water supply contamination and was individually responsible
17 for the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act in a 14 county area of
18 Pennsylvania.

19 From October 1981 through May 1983, I worked as a project engineer for
20 the engineering firm of Johnson, Mirmiran and Thompson, P.A. of Silver Spring,
21 Maryland. While working for this firm I designed numerous water supply systems
22 wastewater treatment and conveyance systems and storm drainage facilities. I
23 investigated the suitability and condition of various existing water supply systems

1 and developed comprehensive facility plans for a number of the firm's clients. In
2 this position I functioned as a project engineer responsible for defining and
3 carrying out engineering work necessary for the timely and accurate completion of
4 design projects. As a client's representative, I also bid projects involving the
5 construction of facilities using construction documents I prepared for the client.
6 These were for new projects as well as for projects requiring the renovation of
7 existing facilities.

8 From May 1983 through November 1984, I served as Director of
9 Engineering for American Water Works Service Company's Eastern Division. In
10 this position I directed the long-range planning and design functions of New York-
11 American Water Company and New Jersey-American Water Company. I
12 supervised the execution of engineering projects related to the design,
13 construction, operation and maintenance of company water and sewer facilities. In
14 this position, I was responsible for the successful completion of an annual
15 construction budget of approximately \$15 million and a facility maintenance
16 budget of approximately \$10 million. This work included the maintenance and
17 renovation of wells in Burlington and Camden Counties and the construction of
18 new wells in Atlantic and Warren Counties. I evaluated facilities, prepared or
19 directed the preparation of engineering designs, pre-qualified bidders, solicited
20 bids, and served as the Company's representative in managing construction and
21 maintenance projects. I had authority to review and execute change orders on
22 construction projects when actual field conditions were found to differ from
23 anticipated conditions.

1 From November 1984 through December 1985, I served as Manager of
2 Operations for the Eastern Division of American Water Works Service Company.
3 In this position I supervised all aspects of engineering, water quality, materials
4 management and risk management for the Company's Eastern Division. This
5 included the Company's operations in New York and New Jersey. I managed a
6 \$120 million maintenance and operations budget and a \$20 million construction
7 budget. I directed the procurement of engineering design services and construction
8 services on approximately sixty major capital projects and hundreds of smaller
9 maintenance and repair projects. During this period, I was responsible for the
10 rehabilitation of the Company's Canoe Brook Well Field in Millburn, New Jersey.
11 I also completed nearly \$3 million in renovation work at Company wells in
12 Burlington and Camden Counties.

13 From December 1985 through August of 1988, I served as System Director
14 of Planning for American Water Works Service Company. In this position I
15 directed the development of strategic and comprehensive plans for all American
16 System companies located throughout the country through a staff of engineers and
17 technical personnel working under my direction. I evaluated the suitability of
18 existing source, treatment and distribution facilities, wastewater conveyance and
19 treatment facilities and made long range projections concerning the need for new
20 facilities or operational modifications to existing facilities.

21 In the next three assignments with American Water Works Company, I
22 directed operations and maintenance budgets that averaged \$150 million per year
23 and capital budgets that ranged from \$30 million to \$120 million per year for the

1 Company's operations in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. Engineering
2 designs were prepared under my direction. I directed the competitive bidding of
3 capital and maintenance projects. The largest of these was the design and
4 construction of the Delaware River Regional Water Treatment Plant; a \$192
5 million treatment plant and pipeline system that now serves much of Burlington,
6 Camden and Gloucester Counties.

7 From August 1988 through April 1989, I served as Regional Manager of
8 Engineering for American Water Works Service Company's Eastern Region. In
9 this position I developed engineering goals and objectives for each of the
10 Company's operating systems in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. I
11 analyzed operating reports to determine the status of all phases of engineering,
12 administration, planning, design and construction necessary to meet the Company's
13 goals and objectives in providing safe, adequate and proper water supply service.

14 From April of 1989 to July 1993, I served as Regional Manager of
15 Operational Services for American Water Works Service Company's Eastern
16 Region. In this position I was responsible for the provision of administrative,
17 engineering, loss control, resource conservation and water quality services
18 required by the operating companies in the Eastern Region. In this position I
19 directed water company operations to assure compliance with approved operating
20 and maintenance budgets, capital construction programs, long range corporate and
21 comprehensive plans, risk exposure reduction, safety and loss control procedures,
22 water conservation programs and water quality objectives. In this position I also

1 served as Vice President of New Jersey-American Water Company, Connecticut-
2 American Water Company and New York-American Water Company.

3 From July 1993 through May 1997, I served as Vice-President of New
4 Jersey-American Water Company. In this position, I served as chief operations
5 officer for the Company. I was responsible for all operations functions including
6 production, distribution, maintenance services and commercial services. I directed
7 a staff of 450 management and unionized employees. These responsibilities
8 included the maintenance of over 150 wells located throughout New Jersey,
9 several large surface water treatment facilities, nearly 100 distribution storage
10 tanks and approximately 4,000 miles of water distribution mains. I was also
11 responsible for the Company's sanitary sewer operations. These facilities were
12 composed of several hundred miles of pipe and numerous pump stations. I
13 planned and directed work required to maintain these facilities in peak operating
14 performance. This work included electrical and mechanical maintenance
15 associated with pumping equipment and controls.

16 In June of 1991, I was appointed by Governor Florio to serve as the
17 investor-owned water supplier representative on the New Jersey Water Supply
18 Advisory Council. The Council advises the New Jersey Department of
19 Environmental Protection ("NJDEP," formerly the N.J. Department of
20 Environmental Protection and Energy) on a wide range of water supply issues such
21 as water quality, facility construction requirements, statewide water supply
22 planning and water supply management. Governor Whitman reappointed me to the
23 Council 1994 and I served through mid 1997.

1 From May of 1997 through July 2000, I directed the acquisition and
2 business development activities of American Water Works Service Company and
3 a joint venture operation of the Company known as AmericanAnglian
4 Environmental Technologies. I directed the development of bids on operations
5 and maintenance contracts to operate municipally owned water and wastewater
6 systems. I reviewed contract documents and directed a staff of engineers and
7 analysts in preparing responsive bids and proposals for prospective municipal
8 clients. In 1999, my team returned the second best business development
9 performance in the United States and we won the largest operations and
10 maintenance contract awarded that year (Scranton Sewer Authority, Scranton,
11 Pennsylvania). I also directed the operations of the joint venture. This business
12 unit was the seventh largest private municipal water and wastewater contractor in
13 the United States. I directed the maintenance and operations functions of over 175
14 contracts dedicated to the operation of municipal water and wastewater utilities
15 and industrial and commercial clients.

16 Since July 2000, I have worked as an independent consultant.
17 Representative clients include the New Jersey Division of the Ratepayer Advocate,
18 the Delaware Public Advocate, Passaic Valley Water Commission, Consumers
19 New Jersey Water Company, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, BOC Gases Inc., the
20 Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority/U.S. Water L.L.C., Upper Dublin Township
21 (PA) and the Elmira (NY) Water Board.

22 I directed and managed the procurement process leading to the sale of a
23 municipal wastewater system in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The Upper Dublin

1 Township Sanitary Sewer System sold for \$20,000,000. This system serves
2 approximately 8,000 connections and has annual revenues of \$3,000,000. I
3 advised the Township on alternative outsourcing and contracting approaches,
4 reduced interim operating expenses by 30% by renegotiating the plant operations
5 contract prior to the sale of the system.

6 I completed an energy management evaluation for the Elmira (NY) Water
7 Board and provided operator training on energy management strategies.
8 Recommendations from the study allowed the client to reduce energy expenses by
9 30% through a series of operational modifications.

10 I completed an energy management audit of the Pittsburgh Water and
11 Sewer Authority and identified strategies for reducing power consumption. The
12 results of this investigation provided the foundation for the Authority and its
13 contract manager (U.S. Water L.L.C.) to develop and implement more effective
14 maintenance and operations procedures to reduce energy costs.

15 I assisted the Banco Gubernamental de Fomento para Puerto Rico,
16 Autoridad para el Financiamiento de la Infraestructura de Puerto Rico and
17 PricewaterhouseCoopers in developing a new operating contract for the Puerto
18 Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA). The contract was developed, bid
19 and awarded in less than six months, cutting the normal procurement time by
20 nearly two-thirds. The new ten-year agreement with Ondeo will allow the
21 government of Puerto Rico to eliminate the annual operations subsidy while
22 service is improved. The value of the contract is \$300 million per year.

II. SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY

Q. ARE YOU GENERALLY FAMILIAR WITH ELIZABETHTOWN WATER COMPANY?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. MR. WOODS, PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS MATTER.

A. I have been engaged by Division of the Ratepayer Advocate to review the cost of providing safe, adequate and proper service in the communities served by Elizabethtown Water Company. I have also been asked to review the capital improvements undertaken by the Company and to review matters significant to statewide water supply management and operations.

III. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Q. HAVE YOU REVIEWED ELIZABETHTOWN WATER COMPANY'S FILING FOR A RATE ADJUSTMENT?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. WHAT DOES THE COMPANY'S FILING AND THEIR PRE-FILED TESTIMONY REQUEST?

1 A. The Company is requesting an adjustment to rates that will result in an overall
2 increase of 11.6% on the basis of a test year ending December 31, 2003.¹ They
3 claim this increase is necessary to recover fair and reasonable operating expenses
4 and the cost of capital improvements to the system.

5

6 **Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THIS RATE INCREASE SHOULD BE**
7 **GRANTED?**

8 A. No. The requested increase presumes the completion of a stated level of
9 construction. Certain projects are not yet complete and in service and the
10 Company has deferred action on others. Furthermore, the proposed expenses
11 related to the American Water Resource Center appear to be duplicative of other
12 costs incurred by American Water Works customers and the center itself would
13 merely duplicate efforts already in progress in New Jersey.

14

15 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY OFFERED SAVINGS RESULTING FROM**
16 **SYNERGIES BETWEEN ELIZABETHTOWN WATER COMPANY AND**
17 **MOUNT HOLLY WATER COMPANY?**

18 A. Yes it has, however, those benefits are discounted to 75% of the full value of the
19 savings and further, the savings are limited to those items the Company was
20 willing to forecast as savings achievable by June 30, 2004. As noted in many of

¹ In the Matter of the Petition of Elizabethtown Water Company for Approval of an Increase in Rates for Water Service; Elizabethtown Water Company; Westfield, NJ; July 10, 2003; p. 2, paragraph 5.

1 the Company's discovery responses, additional savings and improvements in
2 service are possible as the new organizational and business plans take hold.
3

4 **IV. ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS ISSUES**

5 *A. Capital Construction Program*

6 **Q. WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPAL CAPITAL INVESTMENTS CLAIMED IN**
7 **THE COMPANY'S FILING?**

8 A. The Company claims that it has made or will complete capital improvements to the
9 system totaling \$93.7 million in value since its last rate order, which became
10 effective on March 1, 2002.² Mr. Andrew Chapman does not specify the exact
11 nature of these projects and improvements. Mr. Robert R. Schaefer does offer
12 testimony on the scope of projects undertaken to be placed in service in 2003 and
13 the first six months of 2004. The value of these projects totals \$63,911,795.³ The
14 additional projects are the result of expenditures for routine and recurring
15 construction between March 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002.⁴ The test year
16 portion of the Company's capital construction program is made up of projects that
17 can be categorized in two general areas: Routine Construction and Major Projects.
18 The Company claimed test year investments totaling \$17,977,275 for Routine
19 Construction net of Refunds. Major Projects for the test year total \$34,951,067,

² Direct Testimony of Andrew M. Chapman, President, Exhibit PT-1; Elizabethtown Water Company; Westfield, NJ; July 2003; p. 12; lines 17 through 20, as corrected by response to RAR-E-1.

³ Direct Testimony of Robert R. Schaefer, Exhibit PT-4; Elizabethtown Water Company; Westfield, NJ; July 2003; Schedule 1.

⁴ Response to RAR-E-1.

1 including prior year expenses of \$825,618. In addition to the test year construction
2 program, the Company has also requested rate relief for post test year capital
3 additions at an estimated cost of \$28,960,728.

4
5 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY COMPLETED AND PLACED IN SERVICE ALL**
6 **ITEMS INCLUDED IN ITS CAPITAL PROGRAM?**

7 A. No. The Company's case is structured around a test year ending at December 31,
8 2003⁵ with a request for rate treatment of post test year capital additions through
9 June 30, 2004.⁶ As a result, a number of items in the Company's capital program
10 remain under construction and are not yet complete and in service. Furthermore,
11 the Company has withdrawn its request for recognition of certain projects that will
12 either be deferred or not undertaken.

13
14 **Q. WHAT PROJECTS WILL NOT BE COMPLETE AND IN SERVICE BY**
15 **THE END OF THE TEST YEAR?**

16 A. Within the group of Major Projects, there are several that will not result in plant in
17 service by the end of the test year. These include: the Trenton Emergency
18 Interconnect - Phase I (\$3,000,000), the PCC Pipe Integrity Study & Condition
19 Monitoring (\$900,000), the Newark Emergency Interconnection (\$600,000), the
20 72-inch Phase II (\$10,500,000), the Bedminster Booster Upgrade (\$720,000), the

⁵ Prepared Direct Testimony of Gary S. Prettyman, Exhibit PT-2; Elizabethtown Water Company; Westfield, NJ; July 2003; p. 5 lines 16 through 19.

⁶ Ibid; p. 6, lines 9 through 12.

1 RM Filter Gallery Floor Slab Improvements (\$820,310), and the Springfield
2 Wellfield Redevelopment (\$11,829,000).

3
4 **Q. ARE THERE ANY PROJECTS THE COMPANY HAS CHOSEN NOT TO**
5 **PROCEED WITH AT THIS TIME?**

6 A. Yes. The will not be moving ahead with the Pottersville Tank Jacking (\$300,000),
7 and the Business Warehouse (\$1,900,000).

8
9 **Q. ARE THERE ANY PROJECTS THAT WILL BE PARTIALLY**
10 **COMPLETE BY THE END OF THE TEST YEAR?**

11 A. Three of the Company's projects will produce some additions to plant in service
12 by the close of the test year even though the complete scope of the projects will not
13 be complete. These are: the Main Rehabilitation (\$3,900,000 test year expenses
14 followed by \$3,500,000 post test year), Energy Demand Reduction (\$1,339,427
15 within the test year and \$1,000,000 next year), and the Security Upgrades Program
16 (\$2,137,817 within the test year and \$2,500,000 post test year).

17
18 **Q. HAVE YOU REVIEWED THE INVESTMENT PROJECTS**
19 **UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMPANY IN ITS CAPITAL PROGRAM?**

20 A. Yes, I have, and I propose a number of adjustments to the maximum project costs
21 proposed by the Company.

1 **Q. PLEASE TELL US ABOUT THE SPRINGFIELD WELLFIELD**
2 **REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**

3 A. This project is being done as a result of an Administrative Order from the New
4 Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.⁷ Within this Order, the Company
5 was directed to evaluate the rehabilitation of the wellfield and to subsequently take
6 steps to assure the safe and efficient utilization of these wells. The Administrative
7 Order further directed all units of State Government to issue permits and approvals
8 to expedite re-opening of the Springfield Wellfield. The Company has a valid
9 Water Allocation permit allowing the diversion of 142.6 million gallons per month
10 at a maximum rate of 4,300 gallons per minute from a total of 34 wells.⁸ The
11 project will rehabilitate 13 wells along with associated raw water collection mains
12 and a central treatment facility. The treatment facilities will be sized to treat up to
13 four million gallons per day. The project will provide additional reliability in
14 limited areas of the distribution system in the 274 Pressure Zone. This project will
15 have only a limited benefit in case of an emergency affecting the Company's large
16 surface water treatment facilities. The Springfield Wellfield project is simply not
17 significant compared to the Canal Road and Millstone treatment works. The
18 project is a costly addition to production capacity. In addition, the anticipated
19 operating expenses will be similar to the cost of treating surface water.⁹ Similar
20 increments in production capacity likely could have been obtained elsewhere (i.e.

⁷ Administrative Order No. 2002-25; Campbell, Bradley M., Commissioner; New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; Trenton, NJ; November 14, 2002; Section III(E), p. 7.

⁸ Water Allocation Permit No. 5050; New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; Trenton, NJ; p. 2 of 7.

⁹ Response to RAR-E-25.

1 surface water plant upgrades or long term purchased water commitments) for less
2 cost. The Company's consulting engineers also question the cost justification of
3 this project by concluding that "where relatively costly treatment facilities are
4 required, it may be difficult to justify the cost of reactivating the wells from a
5 perspective of increasing total normal daily supply."¹⁰

6
7 **Q. IF THE SPRINGFIELD WELLFIELD REHABILITATION CANNOT BE**
8 **COST JUSTIFIED, WHY SHOULD IT BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE**
9 **COMPANY?**

10 A. Simply, the Company has been directed to undertake this effort by the New Jersey
11 Department of Environmental Protection through a very specific Administrative
12 Order. Although we can argue that other potential projects may have produced
13 four million gallons per day of capacity at a lower cost, the facts show that the
14 Company was ordered to renovate this specific wellfield. Questions about cost
15 and rate impact aside, the project does provide incremental improvements in the
16 diversity of the Company's source of supply and, within the area surrounding the
17 wellfield, the Company's customers will enjoy greater reliability.

18
19 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY INITIATED ANY PROJECTS TO FACILITATE**
20 **THE TRANSMISSION OF WATER WITHIN ITS OWN SYSTEM AND**
21 **BETWEEN ADJOINING SYSTEMS?**

¹⁰ Distribution System Reliability and Emergency Response Study; Killam Associates; Millburn, NJ; January 2002; page 2.4.

1 A. Yes. The “Trenton Emergency Interconnection – Phase I”, the “72-inch Phase II,”
2 and the “Newark Emergency Interconnection” projects will all enhance reliability
3 by allowing water to be transmitted during emergencies. In the case of the Trenton
4 project, the Company will be able to send water to or receive water from the
5 Trenton Water Works. The Newark project will allow water to be taken from the
6 City of Newark under emergencies, providing access to additional supplies for one
7 of the Company’s principal pressure zones. The “72-inch Phase II” project is an
8 internal transmission improvement that will provide the Company redundancy in
9 its ability to move water from its Raritan Millstone and Canal Road plants during
10 emergencies affecting the existing transmission network.

11

12 Q. **HAVE YOU REVIEWED THE ENGINEERING ASPECTS OF THESE**
13 **PROJECTS?**

14 A. Yes. I believe these efforts were properly planned and that each is a necessary and
15 prudent project.

16

17 Q. **SHOULD THE COMPANY BE ALLOWED TO TRANSFER THESE**
18 **PROJECTS TO UTILITY PLANT FOR RATE MAKING PURPOSES?**

19 A. At this time, these projects are under construction and not yet used and useful.
20 When these projects are complete, I would encourage the Company to seek
21 appropriate rate relief. Since none of these efforts is complete at this point in time,
22 rate relief should not yet be granted.

23

1 **Q. IS THE PCC PIPE INTEGRITY STUDY & CONDITION MONITORING**
2 **PROJECT A CAPITAL EXPENSE?**

3 A. No. This is an engineering evaluation. It will certainly establish a baseline
4 condition of the Company's prestressed concrete cylinder pipe and it will probably
5 result in recommendation to improve and extend the life of these mains. When
6 those improvements are made, resulting in new plant in service or the extended
7 service life of existing plant, the cost of the study should be capitalized, but not
8 until then. In response to RAR-E-12, the Company compared this effort to a
9 comprehensive planning study. Typically, such studies are capitalized along with
10 the recommended projects when these are constructed and placed in service.
11 Similar treatment should be accorded the PCC Pipe Integrity Study.

12
13 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY UNDERTAKEN A WATER MAIN**
14 **REHABILITATION PROJECT?**

15 A. Yes. The Company has cleaned and lined in place 85,300 feet of 6-inch pipe and
16 8,000 feet of 12-inch pipe in 2003 at an average cost of \$42 per foot.¹¹ This work
17 involves the physical cleaning of the pipe interior walls with scrapers and drag
18 tools followed by the installation of a cement mortar lining. The process is well
19 accepted in the industry and is known to extend the service life of the mains so
20 rehabilitated.

¹¹ Response to RAR-E- 15.

1 **Q. IS THE COMPANY’S PROGRAM JUSTIFIED FOR WATER QUALITY**
2 **REASONS?**

3 A. Yes. The pipe being rehabilitated is unlined cast iron pipe installed prior to 1960.
4 This type of pipe can be a continuing source of water quality complaints as water
5 chemically interacts with the iron pipe material. Corrosion and bacterial re-growth
6 within tuberculation on the pipe walls act to produce a host of taste and odor
7 complaints. These same problems can ultimately lead to structural failure of the
8 pipe.

9

10 **Q. IS THE COMPANY’S PROGRAM COST JUSTIFIED?**

11 A. Yes. The rehabilitation is being done in urbanized areas where it would be
12 unlikely that a new pipe could be installed in unpaved areas. The Company’s cost
13 to install 6-inch diameter pipe in existing roadways is \$68 per foot.¹² This is 62%
14 greater than the average cost of cleaning and lining.

15

16 **Q. IS IT WISE TO INCUR THE EXPENSE TO RELINE A PIPE THAT IS**
17 **OVER 40 YEARS OLD?**

18 A. The Company reports a limited break history¹³ of the mains included in their
19 cleaning and lining project. This implies that the pipes are structurally sound. By
20 removing internal tuberculation and installing a cement lining, the Company is
21 actually extending the service life of these mains. Given the beneficial cost

¹² Response to RAR-E-16.

¹³ Response to RAR-E-14.

1 differential, this is a prudent program. I do not see any evidence that the Company
2 has actually undertaken any studies to assess the effect of external corrosion on the
3 structural integrity of mains included in their program. Where the mains in
4 question are concerned, a favorable break history is probably sufficient evidence
5 that external corrosion is not an issue. However, I believe the Company's program
6 could be improved, generally, if it were to include a statistical sampling program
7 to test soil conditions for corrosivity to iron pipe and to assess the structural
8 condition of pipe samples. Data developed over time as a result would allow the
9 Company to make more enlightened reline-or-replace decisions.

10
11 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY UNDERTAKEN AN ENERGY MANAGEMENT**
12 **PROGRAM?**

13 A. Yes. The Company should be commended for its efforts in completing an energy
14 audit of its facilities and in implementing the recommendations resulting from the
15 audit. I have reviewed the Elizabethtown Water Company Energy Audit prepared
16 by Dome-Tech Engineering in March 2003. This effort identified and prioritized
17 numerous energy efficiency projects that were cost effective means of reducing
18 energy consumption. In its economic analysis of projects, the Audit compared the
19 capital cost of achieving the anticipated energy savings to the savings. From a
20 ratemaking perspective, this is a conservative approach because it does not
21 compare the capital project revenue requirement to the expected reduction in
22 revenue requirement associated with power cost savings. Nevertheless, the
23 Audit's recommendations are reasonable and appropriate. It is these

1 recommendations that are being undertaken by the Company in the project titled
2 Energy Demand Reduction. The benefits of this program have been accounted for
3 in the Company's calculation of pro forma Production Power expense.

4
5 **Q. CAN YOU SUMMARIZE FOR US THE ADJUSTMENTS YOU**
6 **RECOMMEND TO THE COMPANY'S CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION**
7 **PROGRAM?**

8 A. I adopt the position taken in testimony by Robert Henkes that post test year
9 additions should not be allowed. As a result, in schedule HJW-1, I have subtracted
10 the cost of projects that do not result in any used and useful utility plant by the
11 close of the test year. This results in a downward adjustment of \$26,869,310. I
12 have also subtracted the cost of projects the Company indicated they would not
13 pursue at this point in time. This is an additional downward adjustment of
14 \$2,200,000. Finally, I have subtracted those portions of the Mains Rehabilitation,
15 Energy Demand Reduction and Security Upgrades Program projects that will not
16 be completed and in service by the end of the test year but retained the Company's
17 estimate of year end utility plant in service for these projects. The downward
18 adjustment is \$7,000,000. However, based on the most recent information
19 supplied by the Company, it is unlikely that the Company will meet its projected
20 plant in service balance by 12/31/03. That is one reason why I support the
21 recommendations made by Ratepayer Advocate witness Robert J. Henkes
22 regarding the appropriate ratemaking treatment of the Company's proposed Utility
23 Plant in Service. (Direct Testimony of Robert J. Henkes, pages 8-11). The actual

1 cost of these projects should be verified at the end of the test year and appropriate
2 adjustments should be made to reflect the value of plant actually placed in service.
3 The net effect of these adjustments is to reduce the Company's total construction
4 program estimated amount of \$63,911,795 by \$36,569,310 to a revised total of
5 \$26,342,485.

6
7 **Q. ARE YOU PROPOSING ANY OTHER ADJUSTMENTS RELATED TO**
8 **THE FINAL UTILITY PLANT IN SERVICE BALANCE?**

9 A. Yes. When Congress passed the "Public Health Security and Bioterrorism
10 Preparedness and Response Act of 2002," it authorized funds to assist water
11 utilities in assessing security needs and making improvements recommended by
12 those assessments. Congress further appropriated funds to USEPA to allow for
13 the completion of vulnerability assessments. These funds were readily available
14 to large water systems. Elizabethtown Water Company applied for and received
15 the maximum grant of \$115,000. When reviewing the final cost of the Security
16 Upgrade Program, care should be exercised to net out this grant from the total
17 cost so that the Company's ratepayers are able to enjoy the benefit of the
18 Company's efforts to secure this grant.

19
20 ***B. Operating Revenues***

21 **Q. HAVE YOU REVIEWED THE METHODOLOGY USED BY THE**
22 **COMPANY TO FORECAST SALES?**

1 A. Yes. Essentially, the Company developed a five-year average of sales for its GMS
2 residential, industrial and municipal classes. Similar forecasts were developed for
3 the OIW and SOS classes with allowances being made for known conditions
4 effecting demand.¹⁴

5

6 **Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS APPROACH?**

7 A. Under normal circumstances I would concur with such an approach to forecasting
8 water demands and sales. As Mr. Prettyman notes throughout his testimony on
9 this subject, the intent of his method is to arrive at a basis for projecting future
10 demand that accounts for reasonable and recurring variances in consumption. Mr.
11 Prettyman used a five year period from 1998 through 2002. Three of the five years
12 in this period were impacted by Drought Declarations by the New Jersey
13 Department of Environmental Protection and the Governor. The focus of these
14 measures was to reduce non-essential water demands like lawn watering. Using
15 all years as the basis of the projection would tend to result in lower forecasts for
16 average use since customer consumption was artificially modified by the Drought
17 Declarations. It would be more appropriate to look to the non-drought years as
18 these periods would be more representative of “normal” demands

19

20 **Q. DID YOU DEVELOP A FORECAST FOR SYSTEM DELIVERY**
21 **CONSIDERING ONLY THE LAST THREE NON-DROUGHT YEARS?**

¹⁴ Op. Cit.; Prettyman; pages 13 through 22.

1 A. Yes, I did. I developed a non-drought year average for each of the customer classes
2 including OIW and SOS. As in the case of the Company's calculations, I also
3 made adjustments for known changes in OIW and SOS demand. The result of this
4 analysis was to develop a system delivery forecast that was surprisingly close to the
5 Company's estimate. In fact, my forecast was within seven hundredths of one
6 percent of the Company forecast (0.07%).

7
8 ***C. Operating Expenses***

9 **Q. WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPAL EXPENSES INCURRED IN OPERATING**
10 **THE COMPANY?**

11 A. Operations Labor and labor related expenses accounts for 40% of the Company's
12 operating expenses. This the single largest operating expense for the Company. In
13 addition to direct labor expenses, 16.5% of the Company's base-year operating
14 expenses result from purchased water costs from non-affiliated entities and
15 principally the New Jersey Water Supply Authority. The next largest discrete
16 expenses are: Production Power at 10.9% and Chemicals at 3.7%. General O&M,
17 a collection of various activities and functions, accounts for 18% of the base year
18 expenses.

19
20 **Q. AS A RESULT OF THE PROPOSED PRO FORMA ADJUSTMENTS, ARE**
21 **THERE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE COMPANY'S COST**
22 **PROFILE?**

1 A. The Company is proposing a significant increase in tank painting expense to
2 accommodate a levelized approach to this maintenance item. As proposed, this
3 amounts to 1.1% of the Company's pro forma operating and maintenance
4 expenses. The Company has also proposed a \$453,413 expense for the Research
5 Foundation.¹⁵ Finally, the Company has also proposed a sharing of synergy
6 related savings that has the effect of reducing pro forma operations and
7 maintenance expense by 1.14%.

8

9 **Q. HAVE YOU REVIEWED THESE EXPENSES AND DO YOU PROPOSE**
10 **ANY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE COMPANY'S PRO FORMA EXPENSES?**

11 A. Yes, I have reviewed these expenses and I recommend elimination of the proposed
12 expense for the American Water Resource Center. In addition to this adjustment, I
13 have also reviewed the testimony of Robert Henkes concerning tank painting and I
14 concur with and support the adjustments he has made in regard to this item.

15

16 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A**
17 **COMPREHENSIVE WATER RESOURCES ENTITY?**

18 A. Yes. The Company has testified that there is a need to launch a comprehensive
19 water resources research center to be located in New Jersey. According to Mr.
20 Clerico, the center, to be known as the American Water Resource Center, will be

¹⁵ Op. Cit., The Petition; Exhibit P-2, Schedule 6; also referred to as the "American Water Resource Center" elsewhere in Company Testimony and Exhibits.

1 an independent non-profit organization to “advance new watershed based solutions
2 to enhance water quality and protect our water resources for the future.”¹⁶

3
4 **Q. WILL THE PROPOSED CENTER INCLUDE OTHER ENTITIES BEYOND**
5 **THE NJOU’S?**

6 A. As it has been proposed, the center will encourage participation from a variety of
7 institutional and utility partners as well as by other independent non-profit groups
8 such as watershed associations. The initial primary focus of the center will be
9 water resources issues pertinent to New Jersey, but the Company suggests that this
10 role may expand to other States in the future.¹⁷

11
12 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY SUGGESTED THAT OTHER AFFILIATED**
13 **AMERICAN WATER WORKS COMPANIES PARTICIPATE IN THE**
14 **AMERICAN WATER RESOURCE CENTER?**

15 A. No. They have proposed to launch the Center and fund it solely through
16 contributions from the three NJOU’s. Further, the cost of \$1,333,333 has been
17 allocated to each NJOU on the basis of the number of customers served. The
18 request for funding represents an annual and recurring operating expense
19 amounting to \$846,025 for New Jersey-American, \$453,413 for Elizabethtown
20 Water Company and \$33,895 for the Mount Holly Water Company.¹⁸ It is not
21 apparent that the allocation extends to customers of Applied Wastewater

¹⁶ Prepared Direct Testimony of Edward A. Clerico; Exhibit PT-7; Elizabethtown Water Company; Westfield, NJ; July 2003; p.6, lines 1-2.

¹⁷ Response to RAR-E-84.

¹⁸ Op.Cit.; Clerico; p. 5, lines 13 through 18.

1 Management, a New Jersey-based affiliate of the NJOU's and subsidiary of
2 Elizabethtown Water Company, or the Company's operating affiliates like Liberty
3 Water. Similarly, there does not appear to be any attempt to have the customers of
4 affiliate American Water Services share in the cost of the Center. The impact of
5 allocating the cost across all American Water affiliates is significant. The
6 Company claims to provide service to 20 million customers in the Americas.¹⁹ If
7 the requested start up and operational costs were allocated on the basis of these 20
8 million customers, the Elizabethtown Water Company share of the Center would
9 drop to \$12,669.

10
11 **Q. WILL ELIZABETHTOWN WATER COMPANY'S CUSTOMERS**
12 **SUPPORT RESEARCH EFFORTS IN ANY OTHER WAY?**

13 A. Yes. Through Service Company charges, a new cost for this Company resulting
14 from the merger, a portion of the Company's revenue requirement is allocated to
15 water quality research and development performed at the American Water Works
16 Company's Bellville, Illinois facility. Since some of this research is partially
17 funded by the American Water Works Association Research Foundation, a water
18 industry research group, there is a clear overlap and potential duplication of effort.

¹⁹ American Water Works web page; http://www.amwater.com/awpr/about_us/aboutus1172.html;
November 2003.

1 **Q. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH ANY NEW JERSEY-BASED RESEARCH**
2 **ORGANIZATIONS WITH A MISSION SIMILAR TO THAT PROPOSED**
3 **FOR THE CENTER?**

4 A. The Otto H. York Center for Environmental Engineering and Science at the New
5 Jersey Institute of Technology is such an organization. It's "objectives are to:

- 6 • Conduct applied water research to address the needs of New Jersey's
- 7 drinking water supply infrastructure and to complement national
- 8 research foundations;
- 9 • Conduct applied research that has immediate impact and applications,
- 10 such as 'security' related research;
- 11 • Encourage New Jersey water utilities, consultants and universities to
- 12 conduct joint water research to minimize duplication;
- 13 • Provide an industrial perspective to graduate programs at New Jersey
- 14 colleges and universities;
- 15 • Address all relevant drinking water issues and needs in New Jersey;
- 16 and
- 17 • Establish an information system to disseminate to the public and
- 18 private sectors results of academic and water research activities."²⁰
- 19

20 **Q. ARE THE NJOU'S PROVIDING ANY SUPPORT FOR THE OTTO H.**
21 **YORK CENTER?**

22 A. Yes. As members of the New Jersey Section of the American Water Works
23 Association, the NJOU's are directly and indirectly supporting the operation of the
24 Otto H. York Center.

25
26 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR CONCLUSION CONCERNING THE PROPOSED**
27 **AMERICAN WATER RESOURCE CENTER?**

²⁰ Informational Brochure, New Jersey Applied Water Research Center NJAWRC; American Water Works Association, New Jersey Section NJAWWA & Otto H. York Center for Environmental Engineering & Science at NJIT; Newark, NJ; September 2003; p. 1.

1 A. The proposed Center is duplicative of ongoing efforts by American Water Works
2 research and development group in Bellville, Illinois and the Otto H. York Center
3 at NJIT. Creation of the new center would further dilute rather than concentrate
4 research activities unless the Company is also proposing to eliminate its Bellville
5 research activities and withdraw all support for the Otto H. York center. The
6 suggestion that only the NJOU's bear the burden of both start-up and ongoing
7 expenses of the proposed Center is an unfair burden on some, but not all New
8 Jersey customers of American Water Works. This disparity results from the fact
9 that no allocation of the costs is made to Applied Wastewater Management or the
10 contract operations clients of the Company's affiliates.

11

12 **Q. DO YOU HAVE A RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE**
13 **EXPENSES OF THE PROPOSED CENTER?**

14 A. Yes. The allocated cost amounting to \$846,025 for New Jersey-American,
15 \$453,413 for Elizabethtown Water Company and \$33,895 for the Mount Holly
16 Water Company should not be allowed for ratemaking purposes. If the
17 Company's owners feel there is a need to create yet another research organization,
18 the cost for such an entity should be a below-the-line expense.

19

20 ***D. Synergies***

21 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR GENERAL OPINION OF THE CONSOLIDATION OF**
22 **THE NJOU'S?**

1 A. This is a unique event in the history of water utility service in New Jersey.
2
3 Although mergers and acquisitions have been routine for many years, the merger
4 of regulated water utilities of this size, scope and significance to statewide water
5 resource management is without precedence. The merger should create
6 meaningful economies of scale throughout the NJOU's. In geographic areas
7 where the formerly independent companies competed for service territory,
8 coordinated resource and asset planning by the NJOU's should result in more
9 effective application of capital and better service. We should also expect a
10 company of this size and scope to make noticeable improvements in customer
11 service.

12 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY EVALUATED SYNERGIES RESULTING FROM**
13 **THE MERGER AND PROPOSED SAVINGS AS A RESULT?**

14 A. The Company has conducted a synergy study but its scope is time limited on many
15 issues. That is, the organizational and business practices changes recommended in
16 the report are only those items that will produce an immediate, fixed, known and
17 measurable result by June 2004.²¹ The Company suggests that additional
18 organizational changes will produce additional efficiencies in the future, but they
19 have not attempted to quantify those efficiencies or even commit to a timeline
20 under which the delivery of those efficiencies can be expected.

²¹ Testimony of Thomas J. Flaherty, III, Exhibit PT-6; Elizabethtown Water Company; Westfield, NJ; July 2003; p.18, line 23.

1 **Q. WHAT SYNERGIES HAS THE COMPANY OFFERED IN THIS CASE?**

2 A. They have offered synergies totaling \$3,345,228, which is partially offset by
3 Additional Outside Services (aka Service Company charges) of \$1,551,000. The
4 estimated synergies are comprised of the following items: a reduction in labor
5 expenses (\$1,418,000), a reduction in Employee Benefits (\$735,553), a reduction
6 in General O&M (\$737,194), a reduction in Leased vehicle expenses (\$261,481), a
7 reduction in customer invoice printing expenses (\$123,000), a reduction in
8 insurance (\$50,000), and a reduction in chemical expenses (\$20,000).²²

9

10 **Q. HOW ARE THESE SAVINGS ACHIEVED?**

11 A. The reductions in labor and employee benefits are essentially the result of the
12 Company eliminating executive and management positions made redundant by
13 change in ownership and by changing the structure of New Jersey-American from
14 a geographically centered organization to a functionally centered organization and
15 eliminating the further redundancies that result from this change. The reductions
16 in chemical expenses, insurance, vehicle leases, customer invoice printing and
17 general O&M result generally from the elimination of outside vendors or the
18 adoption of the most favorable procurement practices available in either
19 Elizabethtown Water Company or New Jersey-American Water Company.

20

²² Op. Cit., The Petition; Exhibit P-2, Schedule 21, Page 2 of 2.

1 **Q. ARE THESE REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE CHANGES IN**
2 **BUSINESS PRACTICES THAT SHOULD BE EXPECTED FROM THE**
3 **CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT OF THE NJOU’S?**

4 A. Yes. Since the change in control was approved by the Board of Public Utilities in
5 Docket No. WM01120833, the Company has been under the control of a single
6 executive team. It is reasonable to expect that this team would have identified the
7 best practices needed to manage and operate the NJOU’s and that some of these
8 practices would have been implemented by now.

9

10 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY PROPOSED A REDUCTION IN THE BENEFIT OF**
11 **THESE SAVINGS TO THE RATEPAYER?**

12 A. Yes. They have reduced the benefit, after allowing for the cost to achieve the
13 savings, by 25%.²³

14

15 **Q. DO YOU THINK THAT THIS IS PROPER?**

16 A. No, I do not. These changes are normal and customary improvements that would
17 be expected of any qualified management team. As noted by Mr. Flaherty, the
18 savings identified in the synergy study are single year, steady-state savings that,
19 once achieved, should occur annually into perpetuity.²⁴ In determining the
20 revenue requirement for the Company, the pro forma level of operating expense
21 should be adjusted to reflect the savings without reduction or discount.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Op. Cit., Flaherty; page 19, lines 10 through 13.

1 **Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE ANY IMPROVEMENTS IN**
2 **EFFICIENCY OR EFFECTIVENESS THAT WILL RESULT FROM**
3 **CONSOLIDATION OF THE NJOU’S BEYOND THOSE IDENTIFIED BY**
4 **THE COMPANY?**

5 A. Yes. The Company has adopted a functional organization for its statewide
6 operations. The synergy study identified a number of redundant management and
7 non-union positions and they have taken steps to eliminate these positions. They
8 have not offered any synergies that could result from the implementation of this
9 new management approach at the workforce level. Some of the potential changes
10 may require negotiation with the various bargaining units over changes in work
11 conditions or the composition of the work force. Nevertheless, it is undeniable
12 that improvements in effectiveness and efficiency are possible with the new
13 organization.

14

15 **Q. COULD YOU GIVE US SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT MAY BE**
16 **ACHIEVABLE?**

17 A. Yes. By adopting a functional organization in production, the assignment and
18 performance of maintenance and repair work by management becomes more
19 directly related to the location of the work rather than the location from which the
20 employees are dispatched to do that work. In cases where the Company is
21 combining geographically proximate entities into single functional organizations,
22 one would expect to see a more effective and efficient means of managing and
23 assigning work. Consider, for example, the production operations in the Short

1 Hills operating center of New Jersey-American Water Company and the
2 production operations of Elizabethtown Water Company. Prior to the change to a
3 functional organization, production maintenance employees would have been
4 dispatched from Elizabethtown's operations centers to perform work on outlying
5 facilities. Similarly, management in Short Hills would have done the same for
6 facilities owned by New Jersey-American Water Company. The assignment of
7 work would have been done as though the resources needed to perform any
8 specific task were completely independent and unrelated. Production mechanics
9 could be dispatched from Short Hills to work on facilities in Bernards or
10 Bedminster only to find that they are driving past similarly qualified employees on
11 their way to perform similar tasks in Pottersville. Not only will the new
12 management structure be better able to schedule work in a more efficient manner,
13 but it will also benefit from the ability to more efficiently manage stock for repair
14 parts and consumables and the ability to better coordinate the provisioning of tools
15 and equipment to perform the work. Similar benefits could be expected in other
16 areas where the Company's service areas adjoin or are reasonably proximate. This
17 occurs in the case of the New Jersey-American Burlington/Camden service area
18 and the Mount Holly Water Company operations. The Company has indicated
19 that it is evaluating options to improve the efficiency of its work force in this
20 regard, but they have not yet arrived at specific plans.²⁵

²⁵ Responses to Elizabethtown RAR-E-58 and New Jersey-American RAR-E-5.

1 **Q. DO YOU THINK THAT THESE MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES WILL**
2 **RESULT IN A WORK FORCE REDUCTION?**

3 A. Not necessarily, but I would expect the growth in the work force to be less than
4 what would otherwise be necessary as the Company continues to add customers
5 and facilities.

6
7 **Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**
8 **WILL ALLOW THE COMPANY TO MORE EFFICIENTLY PROCURE**
9 **STOCK FOR NETWORK REPAIRS?**

10 A. Yes. The Company should be able to reduce the aggregate level of stock
11 maintained for network repairs. This includes items such as valves, fire hydrants,
12 pipe, fittings, repair clamps and the like. Before management consolidation, each
13 NJOU would have been obligated to provide a level of repair stock and materials
14 to allow maintenance and repair work of the system networks to proceed normally
15 and without interruption due to stock shortages. The combined Company should
16 see a benefit in the reduction in stock levels assuming organization wide stock
17 control. In this case, we would expect the total to be less than the sum of the parts
18 as minimum order quantities and reorder points are established on a consolidated
19 basis. Again, the Company has indicated they are considering this issue, but no
20 firm plans have been established.²⁶

21

²⁶ See Responses to RAR-E-60, 61 and 62.

1 **Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THE COMPANY WILL BE ABLE TO MANAGE**
2 **CUSTOMER METERS MORE EFFECTIVELY AS A RESULT OF THE**
3 **CONSOLIDATION?**

4 A. Yes. The Company maintains fully equipped meter testing facilities in
5 Elizabethtown Water Company and in Lakewood.²⁷ It is likely that consolidation
6 of small meter testing could be achieved at a single location. This would permit
7 the coordinated purchasing of meters for all of the NJOU's as well as the
8 coordinated management of new meter stock levels. The Company has already
9 made the decision to eliminate the use of outside meter testing services by New
10 Jersey-American for large meters²⁸ for an anticipated savings of \$30,000 annually.
11 The potential savings associated with the consolidation of small meter
12 management and testing could greatly exceed this level of savings.

13
14 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY MADE A DECISION TO CLOSE ITS WESTFIELD**
15 **CALL CENTER AND CONSOLIDATE THIS FUNCTION IN THE**
16 **AMERICAN WATER WORKS CALL CENTER IN ALTON, ILLINOIS?**

17 A. The Company indicated that it announced the Westfield call center functions will
18 be moved by the end of October 2004 but the decision regarding the location of the
19 new call center was not announced.²⁹ This leaves open the question as to a
20 possible New Jersey location for the call center function in favor of a move to

²⁷ See response to RAR-E-76.

²⁸ Op. Cit., Doll; Exhibit PT-5A, page 11.

²⁹ Response to RAR-E-32.

1 Alton, Illinois. In either case, the future of 61 full time employee positions and 14
2 temporary positions is uncertain.

3
4 **Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT CLOSING THE WESTFIELD CALL CENTER**
5 **AND MOVING THIS FUNCTION TO ALTON WOULD MAKE THE**
6 **COMPANY MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT?**

7 A. No, I do not. Recent performance for New Jersey-American shows this to be
8 neither more cost efficient than maintaining a local call center nor more effective
9 at responding to customer inquiries. I will not attempt to reiterate the testimony of
10 Ms. Barbara Alexander in the area of performance failures at Alton and the
11 degradation in customer service since this function was moved to Alton.
12 However, I will point out some areas where that lack of a local call center is
13 compromising New Jersey-American Water Company's ability to provide safe,
14 adequate and proper service.

15
16 **Q. HAS THE COMPANY INDICATED A TIMELINE BY WHICH IT**
17 **EXPECTS TO CONSOLIDATE ITS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**
18 **FUNCTIONS RELATED TO CUSTOMER SERVICE?**

19 A. Yes. It has indicated that this may not occur until 2007.³⁰ As a result of this delay,
20 parallel business systems must be maintained for the Elizabethtown/Mount Holly
21 customers and for the New Jersey-American customers. Given that the Company
22 has already made changes to organize its production, network and service delivery

³⁰ Op.Cit., Chapman; p. 10, lines 18 through 24.

1 functions on functional lines across the former companies, we can anticipate that
2 coordination between two completely different customer service functions and
3 organizations will be a continuing challenge.

4
5 **Q. HAVE YOU EXAMINED ANY ASPECT OF WORK FLOW RELATED TO**
6 **THE ALTON AND WESTFIELD CALL CENTERS?**

7 A. Yes. I have considered the flow of work related to emergency calls.

8
9 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO**
10 **ORGANIZATIONS.**

11 A. In the case of New Jersey-American customers, an emergency call would arrive at
12 Alton, Illinois. The customer service representative answering the call would
13 identify the issue as an emergency request and hand-off the matter to a special
14 “Time Critical” group in Alton. “Time Critical” would first identify the
15 responsible local water company office capable of addressing the problem. Since
16 Alton is a national call center, at this point, “Time Critical” would determine that
17 the emergency is from New Jersey, as opposed to some other state served by
18 American Water Works, and then identify the local area of the company
19 responsible for the work required. “Time Critical” then issues a service order and
20 initiates a call to the local field office to follow-up on the service order. At this
21 point, the problem is handed-off to a local on-call supervisor who then contacts the
22 customer to determine what needs to be done to properly respond to the customer
23 inquiry. At this point work is scheduled and dispatched by the local supervisor.

1 On completion of the activity, “Time Critical” is notified by the supervisor of
2 actions taken in response to the inquiry.

3 By contrast, a call arriving from an Elizabethtown/Mount Holly customer at
4 the Westfield call center is handled by a single customer service representative
5 who is able to determine the nature of the work, schedule the work with the
6 customer and issue dispatch orders through a service coordinator.³¹

7
8 **Q. WHAT PROBLEMS DO YOU SEE WITH THE NEW JERSEY-**
9 **AMERICAN/ALTON ARRANGEMENT?**

10 **A.** First, contact is lost with the customer before a final determination of the nature of
11 the problem is made. In fact, the problem is handed off twice before a link between
12 the customer reporting the problem and an employee able to define the problem and
13 marshal resources to address the problem is made. This creates opportunities for
14 delay or simple misunderstanding. Particularly in the post September 11th world we
15 live in, we must concern ourselves with issues and events that simply cannot
16 tolerate delay and misunderstanding in initiating a proper response.

17
18 **Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE ELIZABETHTOWN/WESTFIELD**
19 **ARRANGEMENT IS SUPERIOR TO THE NEW JERSEY-**
20 **AMERICAN/ALTON ARRANGEMENT?**

21 **A.** Absolutely. The Westfield call center is able to define the nature of the emergency
22 and dispatch work without a break in contact with the customer. This is not a

³¹ See Responses to New Jersey-American RAR-E-94 and 95.

1 feature of the New Jersey-American arrangement. Furthermore, the Westfield call
2 center is under control of local management in New Jersey. It is not obligated to
3 respond to the needs of customers (or utility managers) in multiple states as is the
4 case with the Alton call center. Using the Elizabethtown/Westfield model, one
5 could expect to see a coordinated response, involving customer relations, operations
6 and service delivery, to the problem without interference from competing needs in
7 other areas of the country.

8

9 **Q. BUT DOESN'T IT COST MORE TO MAINTAIN A LOCAL CALL**
10 **CENTER?**

11 A. Apparently not. In response to New Jersey-American RAR-E-125, the Company
12 indicated that the Alton Call Center is costing ratepayers slightly more. The sum of
13 the avoided and reduced costs is slightly less (\$7,835 per year) than the Service
14 Company Call Center costs. Given the deterioration in service within Alton and the
15 poor comparison in service levels between Alton and Westfield, it seems hard to
16 justify the continued routing of New Jersey-American calls out of state.

17

18 **Q. IS IT POSSIBLE TO MOVE THE NEW JERSEY-AMERICAN**
19 **CUSTOMERS TO THE WESTFIELD CALL CENTER?**

20 A. In prior rate proceedings, Elizabethtown Water Company indicated that the SAP
21 systems and call center functions were robust and scaleable. We see no reason to
22 doubt these assertions at this point. Nevertheless, in response to RAR-E-32, the
23 Company indicated: "It is not feasible to transfer the New Jersey-American call

1 center workload to Westfield given the significant cost to migrate New Jersey-
2 American's customer functions from the Orcom platform to the SAP platform and
3 given that corporate decisions regarding the future technology platform have not yet
4 been made." (Emphasis added). We do not disagree that there would be additional
5 costs in expanding SAP capacity to handle an additional 348,000 customers.³²
6 However, we see no reason to unnecessarily prolong the poor service received by
7 New Jersey-American customers from Alton. Although the Company has
8 announced a move of the Westfield call center, we believe the Company to be
9 truthful when it indicates that the end point of the move has yet to be determined. If
10 this is the case, it would seem reasonable to plan a move that would properly
11 accommodate the future work load associated with the combined NJOU's along the
12 current Westfield model at an appropriate location within New Jersey.
13 Notwithstanding the assertion in the response to RAR-E-32 noted above, it appears
14 clear that "American Water plans to implement a fully integrated SAP information
15 systems solution on a national level in approximately 2007."³³ As the Company
16 moves its New Jersey-American customers from Orcom to SAP, and as the plans
17 for the Westfield call center move are developed, we would anticipate the evolution
18 of circumstances in which customer service improves and in which the ratepayers
19 are only asked to pay once for a call center and its supporting information
20 technologies. As the Company transitions from Alton and the existing Westfield
21 call center to a centralized New Jersey-based call center, we would expect to see an

³² Direct Testimony of Dennis L. Ciemniecki, Exhibit PT-2; New Jersey-American Water Company; Haddon Heights, NJ; July 2003; Exhibit PT-2A, Schedule 1.

³³ Op. Cit.; Doll; Exhibit PT-5A; p. 3.

1 increase in labor and labor related expenses with a corresponding decrease in
2 Service Company charges.

3

4 **Q. DOES THIS COMPLETE YOUR TESTIMONY AT THIS TIME?**

5 A. Yes, it does.

6

SCHEDULE HJW-1

THE PETITION OF ELIZABETHTOWN WATER
COMPANY FOR AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR
WATER SERVICE

BPU Docket No
WR03070510
OAL Docket No
PUCRL 07281-2003N

ROUTINE & RECURRING	Test Year	Post Test Year	RPA		RPA
			Adjustments	Construction Estimate*	
A - Mains (Developer Projects, Replacements, Road/Bridge Reconstruction)	\$ 10,319,614	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,319,614
B - Hydrants	\$ 669,961	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 669,961
C - Services	\$ 3,971,637	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,971,637
D - Meters	\$ 2,476,559	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,476,559
E - Other - Water Treatment	\$ 2,034,666	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,034,666
F - Other - Operations	\$ 1,892,455	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,892,455
G - Other - Information Systems	\$ 839,116	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 839,116
H - NJDOT Mains	\$ 696,871	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 696,871
Subtotal For Routine Projects	\$ 22,900,879	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,900,879
I - NJDOT Repayments	\$ (788,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (788,000)
J - Customer Deposits	\$ (5,886,135)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (5,886,135)
K - Customer Refunds	\$ 1,750,531	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,750,531
TOTAL for Routine Projects	\$ 17,977,275	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,977,275
MAJOR PROJECTS					
Mains					
Trenton Emergency Interconnect - Phase I	\$ 458,628	\$ 2,541,372	\$ (3,000,000)	\$ -	\$ -
72-inch, Phase II	\$ 2,332,860	\$ 8,167,140	\$ (10,500,000)	\$ -	\$ -
PCC Pipe Integrity Study & Condit Monitor	\$ 400,000	\$ 500,000	\$ (900,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Newark Emergency Interconnection	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000	\$ (600,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Mains Rehabilitation	\$ 3,900,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ (3,500,000)	\$ 3,900,000	\$ -
Boosters					
North Bridge Street Booster	\$ 595,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 595,000
Bedminster Booster Upgrade	\$ 456,500	\$ 263,500	\$ (720,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Tanks/Storage					
Pottersville Tank Jacking	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000	\$ (300,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Production/Treatment					
Canal Road SCADA Upgrade	\$ 160,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 160,000
RM Filter Gallery Floor Slab Improvements	\$ 120,310	\$ 700,000	\$ (820,310)	\$ -	\$ -
Springfield Wellfield Redevelopment	\$ 3,790,284	\$ 8,038,716	\$ (11,829,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Central Avenue Well Redevelopment	\$ 232,966	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 232,966
Support Facilities					
Energy Demand Reduction	\$ 1,339,427	\$ 1,000,000	\$ (1,000,000)	\$ -	\$ 1,339,427
Information Systems					
Business Warehouse	\$ 900,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ (1,900,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Security					
Security Upgrades Program	\$ 2,137,817	\$ 2,500,000	\$ (2,500,000)	\$ -	\$ 2,137,817
Total Major Projects	\$ 16,973,792	\$ 28,960,728	\$ (37,569,310)	\$ -	\$ 8,365,210
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION	\$ 34,951,067	\$ 28,960,728	\$ (37,569,310)	\$ -	\$ 26,342,485

*RPA Construction Estimate is based on Company estimates of completed construction through the end of the test year. All estimates should be adjusted to actual as final completed construction costs become known.